

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I too want to commend and congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) for introducing such a meaningful piece of legislation.

All of us know that small businesses are, indeed, a backbone of the economy in this country. And we also know that as we become more civilized, there is need to protect the workplace and make it as worker friendly as we possibly can, to make it as safe for those who work as we can.

That means standards. In many instance those small businesses have difficulty complying because of not having the person-power to figure out how to comply meaningfully with the regulation. Or they may not have the money, the resources, the cash flow.

This bill provides an opportunity to assist small businesses to be in compliance, to know how to comply, and to do it well. It is a good piece of legislation. Again, I commend the gentleman from New York and urge all Members to support it.

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, we have taken a big step toward helping businesses deal with the issue of regulatory burden. Unfortunately for many small companies today, the added weight of government regulations can cost many business owners serious long-term financial hardship.

This bill will take a big step toward making regulatory compliance a manageable task for small businesses. However, while this bill achieves a number of objectives, there is more we need to do to provide a better understanding of the entire Federal regulatory system.

Again, I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) for his hard work on this bill, and I look forward to working with him and other members of the committee as we move this entire process forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), my colleague and friend, the ranking member of the committee, for her support throughout this process, as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS). I would just point out that all three of us, as do many of the members of the committee, represent districts that substantially rely on the small business community to create jobs in their areas. Especially those areas in a district like mine that happens to be economically depressed or finding itself at times in real competition as the world changes in terms of the economy.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Chairman TALENT) for

scheduling a field hearing on this issue and bringing the bill to markup. I want to also thank the Committee on Small Business staff for all of their hard work on this legislation.

I think the Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act of 2000 is an important effort to help small businesses and small business owners comply with Federal regulations. I urge my colleagues to support it. I think this is a job-growing proposition.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4946, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4946.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

EXPORT WORKING CAPITAL LOAN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4944) to amend the Small Business Act to permit the sale of guaranteed loans made for export purposes before the loans have been fully disbursed to borrowers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4944

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. SALE OF GUARANTEED LOANS MADE FOR EXPORT PURPOSES.

Section 5(f)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(f)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

"(C) each loan, except each loan made under section 7(a)(14), shall have been disbursed to the borrower prior to any sale."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4944 makes a technical correction to the Export Working

Capital Guarantee Program of the Small Business Administration. The export working capital program provides a 90 percent guarantee for revolving capital needs covering up to \$750,000 for small business exporters.

However, this is a very underused program. Only 429 international trade loans were facilitated by this program in 1999. The problem is that the SBA would like to be able to sell these loans on the secondary market. However, secondary market sales of guaranteed loans are conducted infrequently. Current law requires that all 7(a) loans, including export working capital loans, must be fully disbursed to the borrower prior to becoming included in the secondary market sale.

Export working capital loans are often approved, disbursed, and repaid so quickly that they miss the window of opportunity for inclusion in a secondary market sale.

The purpose of the Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act of 2000 is to exempt export working capital loans from the disbursement requirement under the SBA's 7(a) loan program. This change will allow export working capital loans to be sold to the secondary market. Passage of H.R. 4944 hopefully will free up more trade financing for small business exporters.

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The lack or the complexity of trade finance is a major barrier to small businesses.

Last month, I participated in a forum in Rockford, Illinois, in the district I represent, a forum which was sponsored by the Office of International Trade at the SBA to encourage more local banks to become interested in trade finance. This is a difficult process, because even in this era of globalization, many bankers are still not quite sure how they can be repaid for international loans.

H.R. 4944 will remove the uncertainty for small or international trade loans administered by the SBA. The bill will make trade finance a more attractive option for banks. Increasing the availability of export finance thus will encourage more small businesses to enter into the trade arena.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues have seen the recent headlines about U.S. trade deficits hitting another record, we must be concerned, as I am, about our national export strategy. For the month of July, U.S. exports dropped 1.5 percent.

While this bill is surely not a cure-all to this program, it is one small step we can take to encourage more lenders to offer trade finance to small business exporters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support me and join me in voting for the Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4944, the Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act of 2000. The change proposed in this bill will make an exception to the requirement that export working capital loans will fully be disbursed before they can be sold on the secondary market.

This exception would only be carved out for export working capital loans and will not apply to any other SBA loan programs. This change is necessary so that SBA can sell export working capital loans on the secondary market. Selling loans on the secondary market is an important part of the SBA's financial planning, as it keeps the subsidy rate for the loan programs down, therefore requiring less direct appropriation from Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Export Working Capital Program, a combined effort of the SBA and the Ex-Im Bank, is an important program that provides short-term working capital to small business exporters. The two agencies have joined their working capital programs to offer an efficient, unified approach to the Federal Government's support of export financing.

The technical change in this bill is important to the long-term stability of the Export Working Capital Loan Program, and, more importantly, to the small businesses that use the program.

According to a joint SBA and Commerce Department study, nearly 97 percent of the U.S. firms engage in exporting our small businesses. This same study shows that small business accounts for nearly one-third of total U.S. export sales.

And according to U.S. Census Bureau data, about 88 percent of the U.S. companies engage in exporting are small business with fewer than 100 employees. Small businesses are the engine driving our economy; as such, small business exporters play an important role in our economic success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), for bringing this matter to our attention. This problem is an example of the unintended consequences that statutes can have, and it says a lot about the nature of the Committee on Small Business that we caught the problem and are working to correct it in a bipartisan manner.

Again, I support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I, first of all, want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4944, the Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act. The Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act of 2000 makes a technical correction to the Small Business Act that will enable the Small Business Administration to sell export working capital loans on the secondary market.

This program provides transaction-specific financing of loans of \$833,333 or less. Small business exporters may use this program for preexport financing of labor and materials, financing receivables generated from these sales and/or standby letters of credit used as performance bonds or payment guarantees to foreign buyers.

Enabling the sale of these loans on the secondary market will increase the attractiveness of export working capital loans to lenders to be used as performance bonds or payment guarantees to foreign buyers.

It would relieve them of the cost of servicing and paperwork on small short-term loans. While the authority exists to sell export working capital loans, secondary market sales of SBA guaranteed loans are conducted infrequently, which create a technical problem affecting these short-term loans.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4944 streamlines the entire process. The committee changes are simply the latest in a series of Small Business Administration program enhancements designed to meet small businesses' needs for a simple process with flexible requirements and fast delivery of financing.

Again, I want to commend the Committee on Small Business for its bipartisan work. I want to commend and congratulate the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) for an important piece of legislation, because what he has done has simply been to take a good program and make it better.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) for yielding the time to me. Let me also join the refrain and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), chairman of the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports, as well as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), chairman of the Committee on Small Business, and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ), the ranking member, for their leadership in bringing forth this outstanding piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Empowerment, I rise in strong support of the National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act. This bill will offer small businesses a voluntary, confidential and nonpunitive way to obtain assistance in complying with regulations through the small business development centers.

It creates partnerships with the Federal agencies to encourage them to increase outreach efforts to small businesses which will improve compliance with regulations and establish a mechanism for unbiased feedback from SBDCs to Federal agencies on regulatory environment.

Specifically, H.R. 4946 will establish a pilot program that sets 20 SBDCs as points of contact and advice for small businesses with concerns about regulatory compliance.

The selected SBDCs will coordinate and develop partnerships with Federal agencies for the provision of much-needed advice to small businesses. The SBDCs will be charged with sending information obtained from Federal agencies concerning contradictory or confusing advice on regulations to the National Association of Small Business Development Centers. The ASBDCs will then prepare a report for the President, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Ombudsman, and the House and Senate Small Business Committees.

Mr. Speaker, with so many small businesses overwhelmed by growing and constantly changing State, Federal, and local regulatory requirements and in fear of penalties for noncompliance, the time has come, Mr. Speaker, for Congress to help these businesses understand and comply with the various regulations.

In the past 20 years, the Federal Register, which lists all of the regulations and changes, grew from 42,000 to a record rate of 73,879 pages in 1999. Small businesses want to comply with the numerous regulations, but they often just do not know what to do.

The National Small Business Regulatory Assistance Act will offer these small businesses critical assistance by turning confusion into clarity through these pilot programs.

I urge my colleagues to support me and all of those who work on small businesses to pass this very good and common sense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act because it will implement crucial technical changes which will streamline the entire small business loan process and help America's dedicated small business owners continue to grow and stimulate our strong economy.

Small firms represent 97 percent of all companies working within the United States import/export marketplace. Small businesses account for nearly one-third of total U.S. export sales and approximately 88 percent of the U.S. companies engaged in exporting are small business with fewer than 100 employees. The Export Working Capital Program [ECWP] loan program is designed to provide short-term "working capital" loans for small businesses in the import/export business. The current ECWP loan process allows the Small Business Administration to only sell loans on the secondary market if the loan has been fully disbursed to the borrower. This creates a quandary for the SBA and the EWCP because the SBA only makes loan disbursements once

a month for all of its loan programs. Also the EWCP loans tend to be very short-term loans—often less than a year in length. As a result, many small businesses owners are left to squander for critical dollars in order to maintain their businesses. By providing an exception that would allow SBA to sell these loans into the secondary market, the SBA will be able to improve its long-term financial planning and streamline loan operations for import/export businesses. While this may appear to be a small change, this legislation will expand SBA's ability to reach into every sector of the economy and to help more small business owners.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for America's hard working small business owners by voting "yes" on Export Working Capital Loan Improvement Act.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4944.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4944.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1248) to prevent violence against women, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1248

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Violence Against Women Act of 2000".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—CONTINUING THE COMMITMENT OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Subtitle A—Law Enforcement and Prosecution Grants To Combat Violence Against Women

Sec. 101. Reauthorization.
Sec. 102. Technical amendments.
Sec. 103. State coalition grants.
Sec. 104. Full faith and credit enforcement of protection orders.

Sec. 105. Filing costs for criminal charges
Sec. 106. Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Subtitle B—National Domestic Violence Hotline

Sec. 111. Reauthorization.
Sec. 112. Technical amendments.

Subtitle C—Battered Women's Shelters and Services

Sec. 121. Short title.
Sec. 122. Authorization of appropriations for family violence prevention and services.
Sec. 123. FVPSA improvements.
Sec. 124. Transitional housing assistance for victims of domestic violence.

Subtitle D—Community Initiatives

Sec. 131. Grants for community initiatives.

Subtitle E—Education and Training for Judges and Court Personnel

Sec. 141. Reauthorization.
Subtitle F—Grants To Encourage Arrest Policies

Sec. 151. Reauthorization.
Sec. 152. Technical amendment.

Subtitle G—Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement

Sec. 161. Reauthorization.
Sec. 162. Technical amendments.

Subtitle H—National Stalker and Domestic Violence Reduction

Sec. 171. Technical amendments.
Sec. 172. Reauthorization.

Subtitle I—Federal Victims' Counselors

Sec. 181. Reauthorization.
Subtitle J—Victims of Child Abuse Programs

Sec. 191. Reauthorization of court-appointed special advocate program.
Sec. 192. Reauthorization of child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners.
Sec. 193. Reauthorization of grants for televised testimony.
Sec. 194. Dissemination of information.

TITLE II—SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Sec. 201. Transfer of rape prevention and education program.
Sec. 202. Rape prevention education.
Sec. 203. Sexual assault and interpersonal violence; demonstration projects.

TITLE III—OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Strengthening Services to Victims of Violence

Sec. 301. Civil legal assistance for victims.
Subtitle B—Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children

Sec. 305. Safe havens for children pilot program.

Subtitle C—Protections Against Violence and Abuse for Women with Disabilities

Sec. 310. Findings.
Sec. 311. Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.
Sec. 312. Violence Against Women Act.
Sec. 313. Grants for technical assistance.

Subtitle D—Standards, Practice, and Training for Sexual Assault Examinations

Sec. 315. Short title.
Sec. 316. Standards, practice, and training for sexual assault forensic examinations.

Subtitle E—Domestic Violence Task Force

Sec. 320. Domestic Violence Task Force.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—

(1) OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT.—Section 2003(1) of the Omni-

bus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg-2(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) the term 'domestic violence' includes acts or threats of violence, not including acts of self-defense, committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction, or by any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction;"

(2) OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT.—Section 2105(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796hh-4(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) the term 'domestic violence' includes acts or threats of violence, not including acts of self-defense, committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction, or by any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction; and"

(b) INDIAN COUNTRY.—Section 2003(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg-2(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) the term 'Indian country' has the same meaning as is given such term by section 1151 of title 18, United States Code;"

(c) STALKING.—Section 2003 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg-2) is amended by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting a semicolon and by adding after paragraph (8) the following:

"(9) the term 'stalking' means engaging in conduct that is directed at an individual with the intent to injure and harass the individual and which places the individual in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, that individual, a member of that individual's immediate family or that individual's intimate partner;"

(d) UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.—Section 2003(7) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg-2(7)) is amended to read as follows:

"(7) the term 'underserved populations' includes populations underserved because of geographic location (such as rural isolation), underserved racial and ethnic populations, populations underserved because of special needs (such as language barriers, disabilities, or age), and any other population determined to be underserved by the State planning process in consultation with the Attorney General;"

(e) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION.—Section 2003 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg-2), as amended by subsection (c), is amended by adding after paragraph (9) the following:

"(10) the term 'domestic violence coalition' means a statewide (except in the case of a coalition within lands under tribal authority) nonprofit, nongovernmental membership organization of a majority of domestic violence programs within the State, commonwealth, territory, or lands under military, Federal, or tribal authority that among other activities provides training and technical assistance to domestic violence programs within the State, commonwealth, territory, or lands under military, Federal, or tribal authority;"